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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 FEA-01 ACDA-07
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /133 W
----------101202Z 122252 /15
R 101100Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7807
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AO, XF, SS, ECON, PGOV, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS

1. SUMMARY: IN ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S STATEMENT, PRESIDENT SENGHOR CALLED FOR THREE-WAY DIALOGUE IN ANGLOLA AND "DYNAMIC COMPROMISE" IN WESTERN SHARA AND MIDDLE EAST. SENEGALESE PRESIDENT WAS CRITICAL OF DEVELOPED NATIONS IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND IMPLIED THAT OIL PRICE INCREASES WERE JUSTIFIED. SENEGAL ITSELF HAD PROGRESSED AT LEAST SLIGHTLY IN ALL AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC MULTIPARTY SYSTEM. REMARKS WERE CONSISTENT WITH PAST SENEGALESE POSITIONS ON ALL ISSUES COVERED. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN NEW YEAR'S EVE ADDRESS TO NATION, PRESIERNT SENGHOR CONCENTRATED ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF 1976, CONCLUDING (AS HE HAD AT END OF 1975) THAT PAST YEAR HAD NOT BEEN FORTUNATE ONE FOR AFRICA, THOUGH HE OBSERVED THAT IT HAD BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL FOR SENEGAL ITSELF.

3. IN ANGOLA, SENGHOR SAID, "THE THREE PARTIES OF NATIONAL

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LIBERATION, SADLY, PREFERRED CONFRONTATION... AND ONE OF
THE PARTIES TRIUMPHED THANKS TO MASSIVE FOREIGN INTER-
VENTION." HE HAD TOLD UNITA, FNLA AND PREISDENT NETO THAT
PROBLEM CAN ONLY BE SETTLED BY NATIONAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN
THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. CONCERNING WESTERN SAHARA, SENGLHOR CITED HIS CALL
OF ONE YEAR AGO FOR "DYNAMIC COMPROMISE BASED ON RESOULU-
TIONS VOTED BY THE UN" (WHICH HE SAID WERE COMPLEMENTARY
RATHER THAN CONTRADICTORY). SENEGAL HAD ALWAYS SAID SAME
THING TO THREE CHIEFS OF STATE CONCERNED. WHILE SENEGAL
WAS NOT (DIRECTLY) CONCEGNED, HE NOTED, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS
INVOLVED "IN THE PROBLEM OF THIS WAR, WHICH SPREADS
INSIDIOUSLY AND CRUELLY BY INTERPOSED SAHARAOUIS." SENGHOR
SAID SENEGAL INTENDED TO "REMAIN ATTENTIVE" TO
SITUATION AND READY "TO BRING OUR ASSISTANCE TO THE SEARCH
FOR A DYNAMIC COMPROMISE", IF ASKED.

5. SENGHOR SAW "GLIMMER OF HOPE" IN MIDDLE EAST DUE TO
LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS AND BECAUSE "THE TWO PRINCIPALLY
CONCERNED (PARTIES), THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIAN
ARABS, ARE CONVINCING THEMSELVES, LITTLE BY LITTLE, OF
THE NECESSITY TO FIND A DYNAMIC COMPROMISE WHICH...CAN
ONLY BE THE STABLISHMENT ON PALESTINIAN SOIL OF A STATE
WITH AN ARAB MAJORITY--WHICH IS TO SAY MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN--
ALONGSIDE THE STATE OF ISRAEL WITH ITS JEWISH MAJORITY.
IN OUR OPINION, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE STATE OF
ISRAEL CONSIDER ITSELF AS AS SEMITIC PEOPLE AMONG OTHER
SEMITIC PEOPLES, AND THAT THE ARABS ACCEPT THIS SEMITIC
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PEOPLE AS A BROTHER PEOPLE. THERE IS NO SOLUTION IN WAR,
WHERE THE DESTRUCTION OF
ONE BY THE OTHER CAN NOT BE
CONSIDERED AS POSITIVE OR EVEN AS A SOLUTION."

6. SENGHOR RECALLED HIS PAST PESSIMISM ON NORTH-SOUTH
TALKS, REMARKING THAT "PY NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WAS
SUSPENDED, IF IT RISKS FAILURE, IT IS OWING TO THE
DEVELOPED STATES. AFTER HAING LOWERED BRUTALLY THE
PRICE OF OUR RAW MATERIALS
FOR EXPORT--COPPER, PHOSPHATES,
VEGETABLE OIL, ETC.--THEY THEN BECOME ANGRY OVER THE
INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM." FURTHERMORE, SENGHOR
CLAIMED THAT EXPERTS HAD PROVEN SINCE 1950 THAT PRICE OF
OIL HAD INCREASED LESS THAN THOSE OF "MANUFACTURED RAW
MATERIALS" THAT THIRD WORLD IMPORTS"

7. SENGHOR THEN REVIEWED EVOLUTION OF "SENEGALESE
DEMOCRACY" OVER PAST YEAR. AMNESTY WHICH HE PROPOSED

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AT BEGINNING OF 1976 HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND "THE
FUNCTIONNAIRES WHO ASKED WERE REINTERGRATED, IF NOT
INTO THE POSTS THEY HAD LEFT, AT LEAST INTO THE CIVIL
SERVICE." ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN REVISED
TO LIMIT NUMBER OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO PRESENT THREE,
SENGHOR REPPEATED PAST ASSURANCES THAT THERE REMAINS ROOM
FOR TWO MORE PARTIES TO RIGHT OF EXISITNG ENTITIES, BUT,
HE SAID, "IT IS NECESSARY THAT THEY HAVE THE COURAGE TO
DEFINE THEMSELVES." SENGHOR ALSO CITED MEASURES PASSED
DURING 1976 TO STRENGTHEN PENALTIES FOR THEFT AND VIOLENT
CRIMES, EXPLAINING THAT, "BEFORE PROTECTING THE LIVES
OF BANDITS, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED TO PROTECT THOSE OF
HONEST CITIZENS-- THE MAJORITY OF SENEGLESE." SUMMING UP
EVENTS OF PAST YARS, SENGHOR EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SENEGAL
HAD PROGRESSED, "SLIGHTLY, PERHAPS, BUT PROGRESSED ALL
THE SAME." IN
ALL AREAS OF NATIONAL ENDEAVOR.
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8. COMMENT: SPEECH BROKE NO NEW GROUND, AND IS OF INTEREST MAINLY AS BENCHMARK MARKING CONTINUING ADHERENCE TO EXISTING SENEGALESE POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SEEN AS MOST IMPORTANT. ALSO CONSISTENT WITH SENGHOR'S THINKING OVER PAST YEAR AND MORE WERE MOODS OF CONCERN FOR AFRICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, OF PESSIMISM OVER NORTH-SOUTH TALKS, BUT OF PRIDE AND CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AS REGARDS INTERNAL SENEGALESE SITUATION. CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, RHODESIA/NAMIBIA/SOUTH AFRICA SITUATION DID NOT FIGURE AMONG INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS "SEEN WITH AN AFRICAN EYE" WHICH SENGHOR CITED.
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